

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04528 121032Z

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FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT
OVERSEAS POSTS

REF: STATE 210312

1. SUMMARY. IN VIEW OF HIGH POTENTIAL FOR INSTABILITY IN BANGLADESH, WE HAVE HAD SECURITY PROTECTION UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW OVER PAST 18 MONTHS. MOST RECENTLY MOTIVATED BY THE EVENTS IN KUALA LUMPUR AS WELL AS THE AUGUST 15 COUP HERE, WE HAVE TAKEN ADDITIONAL STEPS TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL SECURITY FURTHER AS WELL AS TO UPDATE EMERGENCY AND ANTI-TERRORIST PROCEDURES. HOWEVER, THIS POST WILL NOT ENJOY A DECENT MARGIN OF SECURITY UNTIL IT POSSESSES ITS OWN CHANCERY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHANCERY. THE MOST RECENT IMPROVEMENTS TAKEN LAST MONTH PROVIDED FOR A FOUR-MAN ARMED LOCAL POLICE DETAIL TO BE ON DUTY INDEFINITELY IN THE GROUND FLOOR LOBBY WHERE THE CONSULAR SECTION IS EXPOSED, AND ALSO AN ALARM BELL BETWEEN THE CONSULAR SECTION AND THE MARINE GUARD DESK ON THE FOURTH FLOOR. BECAUSE THE ENTRANCE TO THE CONSULAR SECTION IS DIRECTLY OFF OF A LARGE OPEN LOBBY, REASONABLY RELIABLE CONTROL INTO THIS PUBLIC BUILDING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO

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PAGE 02 DACCA 04528 121032Z

ACHIEVE. MOREOVER, THE QUALITY OF THE POLICE DETAIL IS OPEN TO QUESTION. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE DESIRABILITY OF RETURNING THE CONSULAR SECTION TO THE BETTER PROTECTION OF THE FOURTH FLOOR FROM WHERE IT WAS MOVED EARLY IN 1974, BUT ARE RELUCTANT TO DO SO BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE SPACE AND TO MINIMIZE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE REST OF THE CHANCERY.

3. USAID OFFICES. THESE ARE LOCATED IN A NEARBY BUILDING WHICH COMBINES PUBLIC OFFICES AND A HOTEL IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GO BEYOND PRESENT LIMITED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

4. USIS LIBRARY. SITUATED IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA SEVERAL MILES FROM THE CHANCERY, AND THE TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS WHEN IT WAS ON A DIFFERENT SITE, THIS LOCATION HAS A 24-HOUR POLICE SECURITY DETAIL. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT INCIDENTS, BUT THIS GUARD WILL BE INDEFINITELY RETAINED.

5. GSO COMPOUND. THERE IS A 24-HOUR CIVILIAN GUARD ON THIS FACILITY WHICH DENIES ADMISSION TO NON-OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. THIS IS AN APPROPRIATELY PRUDENT LEVEL OF PROTECTION FOR THIS NON-SENSITIVE FACILITY.

7. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. SINCE LATE LAST YEAR A 24-HOUR ARMED POLICE SECURITY DETAIL HAS BEEN POSTED AT MY HOUSE. THIS WILL BE RETAINED INDEFINITELY. THE POLICE ALSO PROVIDE ME WITH A PERMANENT BODYGUARD DETAIL, WITH THE INDIVIDUAL ON DUTY RIDING THE FRONT SEAT OF THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE.

7. ALL ARMED POLICE ARE PROVIDED BY THE BDG AT NO COST TO THIS MISSION.

8. CONCLUSION. NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THE RECENT CONTRIVANCES TO ENHANCE CHANCERY SECURITY, THIS BUILDING IS HIGHLY UNCERTAIN FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT. (FYI. BASED ON OUR DCM'S FAMILIARITY WITH BOTH, THIS BUILDING CAN BE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS FAR MORE VULNERABLE THAN THE KUALA LUMPUR CHANCERY. END FYI.) THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS CANNOT BE REMEDIED BY MUCH MORE IMPROVISATION, UNLESS WE ARE WILLING TO AUGMENT THE POLICE DETAIL TO EM-BARRASSING PROPORTIONS. TO ATTAIN ANY COMFORTABLE MARGIN OF SECURITY
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PAGE 03 DACCA 04528 121032Z

IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, WE MUST BE IN OUR OWN PROPERLY DESIGNED CHANCERY.
BOSTER

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